# DECEMBER

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

### *DECEMBER MEETINGS*
### *(for Members and Their Guests)*

DATES & TIMES: Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday December 8
Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, December 8-9

PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

SPEAKER: Laurel Reynolds

SUBJECT: "MEXICO'S CALIFORNIA"

These meetings are holiday gifts from the Academy to its members, for any occasion that finds Mrs. Reynolds at the Morrison lectern is a joyous one indeed.

"Mexico's California," a film in color created by her and her co-photographer Mindy Wills, takes you to Lower California's waters aboard "The Thundercloud" to a dream world of fishing, sun, and play. As you cruise Mexico's Pacific Coast, all manner of life, animal, marine and human, is recorded beautifully in a sun-filled adventure.

From the lighthouse on San Benitos Island where you tour that particular world of cactus and sea lions, you travel on to San Jose del Cabo and its bizarre elephant trees. Then, it is up the gulf to the ancient harbor city of La Paz founded by Cortez in 1535 and on to the tropical islands along the Pacific shore. Tomato-faced crabs, fish-eating bats, giant iguanas, blue-footed boobies brighten the screen as do man o'wars with their scarlet throats and piratical behavior and the rare red-billed tropic birds, soaring hundreds of feet above the sea, white streamer-tails trailing.

"The Thundercloud" cruises on past spinning porpoises, giant sea turtles and schools of whales, finally anchoring at Puerto Vallarta — and you'll enjoy every minute of the trip!

Mrs. Reynolds is the wife of Dr. T. Eric Reynolds, a Fellow of the Academy. Both, for years, have been active in California and national conservation programs.

"Mexico's California" is a slightly longer film than those usually presented, running about 80 minutes. Three meetings as indicated and your membership card is your admittance. For the matinee performance present it to the door attendant at the entrance of *Cowell Hall only*. You will be asked to show it again at the entrance to the auditorium. For the evening meetings, the arrangements are as they have been in the past: ingress at the main entrance, Cowell Hall, and the rear Planetarium entrance off Middle Drive.

### *MORRISON PLANETARIUM*

"ASTRONOMY FOR FUN" continues in the Theatre of the Stars through December 5. Beginnnig December 6:

"THE CHRISTMAS STAR." First presented in 1953, this holiday show has never lost it appeal. Last year's attendance was the largest ever and it is expected this nineteenth presentation may even top that.

Performances daily at 2:00 with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at 8:00. Extra matinees at 3:30 on Saturdays and Sundays and during Christmas-to-New Year week. Closed Monday and Tuesday nights, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.

Admission: Adults, $1.00, with half-price for youths under 16, students with student body card, and armed services personnel.

### *SPECIAL EVENT*

"THIRD ANNUAL FUNGUS FAIR" — one day only — on Sunday, December 5 during regular hours (ten to five). The Mycological Society of San Francisco urges you to 'Discover Mushrooms! A World of Wonder at Your Feet!' On hand will be a host of fresh specimens for your inspection plus experts to answer your questions.

### *SPECIAL EXHIBITS*

"GALAPAGOS", an extensive and informative exhibit devoted to this Ecuadorian archipelago continues indefinitely in Cowell Hall.

"EDGE OF A CONTINENT" features color plates from the book of the same title by Don Greame Kelley. Lower Gallery, Cowell Hall.

### *NEW PERMANENT EXHIBIT*

"TOURMALINE," a fine assortment of specimens from the Stewart Lithia Mine near Pala in San Diego County including large crystals of gem quality. Located at the entrance to the Hall of Minerals.

*"Season's Greetings"*

# *NEWS and NOTES . . . . . .*

THE FELLOWS MEDAL, the highest honor bestowed by the Academy, was presented on October 6 to Dr. George S. Myers, for thirty years on the teaching staff at Stanford University. Dr. Myers is pre-eminent in the field of zoogeography. He retired from Stanford two years ago.

The handsome silver disc was inscribed as follows: "Presented in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the science of biogeography, herpetology and ichthyology" and was bestowed on the occasion of the 1971 Annual Fellows Banquet. 190 persons were in attendance and the featured speaker was Dr. Alfred S. Romer of Harvard University.

Previous medalists include Drs. Ira L. Wiggins, Laurence M. Klauber, Carl L. Hubbs, G Dallas Hanna, Robert C. Miller, Tracy Storer and A. Starker Leopold.

THERE WERE two hundred registrants for the five-Wednesday seminars on Baja California which began October 13. Thirty-two of these participated in the ten-day field trip which commenced November 18.

DR. EARL S. HERALD, Associate Director for Steinhart Aquarium, has been awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the Western Wholesale Pet Supply Association, Inc. for his "outstanding contribution to the knowledge of our animal heritage" and particularly for his promulgation of "sane animal legislation".

FOR A HALF-CENTURY, Mr. Edwin R. Leach was involved with the California Academy of Sciences, first as a member, then Life Member, Patron and Fellow. A professional mining engineer, Mr. Leach enjoyed a busy and lifelong avocation with the study of beetles as well as other insects. Primarily he was interested in the family Lucanidae (stag beetles) and the Cetonids of the family Scarabaeidae.

On his death at the age of 93 on July 22 of this year, Mr. Leach generously left his extensive collections to the Department of Entomology which now has them in its possession. They are estimated to contain between forty and fifty thousand specimens and are housed in cases and glass-topped drawers which Mr. Leach constructed himself. The gift was accompanied by his working research library — all-in-all a handsome benefaction for which we are grateful.

## RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

"New Scenopinidae (Diptera) from North America." Lewis P. Kelsey. No. 88. October 1, 1971. .....50c

"The Genera *Stenopogon* Loew and *Scleropogon* Loew in America North of Mexico (Diptera: Asilidae)". J. Wilcox. No. 89. October 1, 1971. .....$1.00

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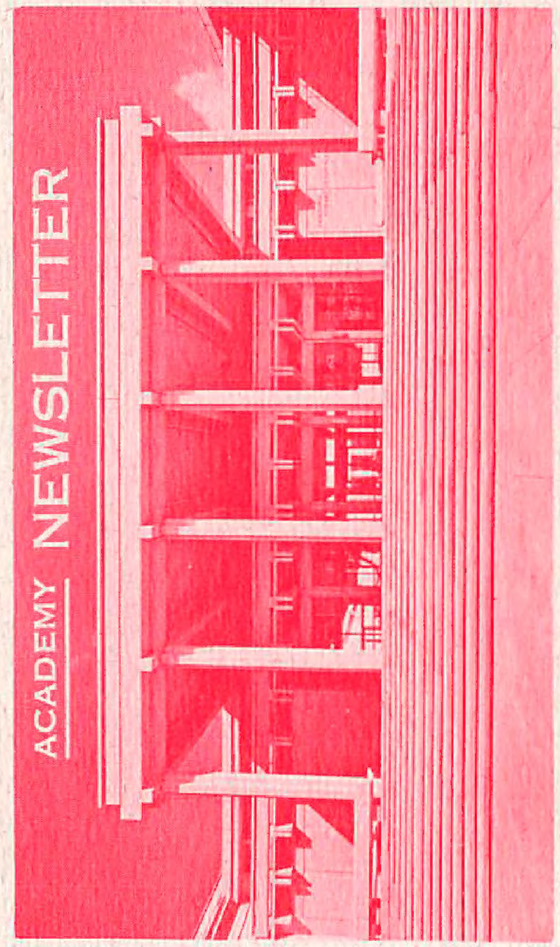


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